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THE
REFORMED
MALIGNANTS.
OR,
A DISCOURSE
Vpon the
PRESENT STATE
Of our
AFFAIRES.

Betwixt a
CAVALIER
And a
CONVERT.



LONDON,
Printed for *Lawrence Blakelocke* neere Temple Bar.

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THE REFORMED MALIGNANTS.

OR,
A Discourse upon the present state of our affaires.
Betwixt a Cavalier and a Convert.

Caval.

I Have you *are converted*, I thought you had beene wiser than to turne in a time when all men are leaving them.

Convert.

It is no matter, my conscience is not led with outward probabilities, but with the inward and real integrity and truth of their Cause, and now that I see through all your *Oxford* delusions, I doe grieve in my soule to see so many taking paines to undoe their Kingdome, under a colour of fighting for the King, and to help to make themselves slaves in their Consciences and Liberties.

Caval. *Is not their cause as good at Oxford, as at London and Westminster?*

Conv. Shall I deale plainly? we were the veriest fooles, we fought to subdue a Parliament, and in that our Gentry, our neighbours, our Countrymen, and so to bring the power about into the Court againe, and then two or three Privy Counsellors shall rule us all, and make us serve their ends and interests; nay, the Queen (as formerly) will have her stroke againe, and then we are in a worse condition: and I tell you we have some of our Nobility and Gentry the unworthiest men, they once called, and complained, and petitioned for a Parliament, and now they are afraid to play out their game, and are gone, and had rather returne to their old condition againe, such is their apostasie and cowardise, and they will be rewarded with a secret contempt and reproach at *Oxford*, I know it, and so doe you: I saw before how they laughed in *Yorke* at my Lord *Pager*, and the rest that came downe, and yet they came early too.

Caval. *There is a faction in the Parliament, which they say makes them leave it, and they intended never to oppose to such an height.*

Conv. That is the weaknesse and unsoundnesse of their owne principles, which will not ayme so high as the rest, for while they thought to have done things to halfe part, and so to have taken up, and accommodated, they would have brought themselves into a worse condition, for such an incomplete and unsafe Reformation
was

was not worth the expence of so much blood and treasure, nor worthy of such a Parliament, nor of those rare and admirable concurrences, conjunctures, and providences which God gave them, and hath continued to them: and beleeeve it, the errors and enormities of your State and Chatch, heightens you into further endeavours of reformation than so; nor doe I speake this to continue war, or with blood, but to procure a firme and secure peace.

Caval. But in this your extreame opposition you get the name of Rebels and Tray-

tors.
Conv. That is a stale objection, and there is much writ to cleare it, for that is a delusion they paint and set out, for they put the King betwixt them and danger, and they pretend whatsoever is done against them is done against the King, and thus they disguise themselves in his robe, and they stand behinde his throne, and it is their good fortune now to have the King in their company, and thus make use of his name, that is the Engine and myttery they worke with.

Caval. But we love and honour the King, and you fight against him.

Conv. We fight not against him, but against the crowd that is about him, and stands betwixt him and his Parliament, a crowd of Papists and evill Counsellors; and when we talke of the King, we meane as well his office and administration, as his person; that is too narrow and particular a consideration to cry him up as King Charles, but as King of England, the former is an affection fit onely for a favorite or Privado, not for a Patriot or Commonwealths man.

Caval. But we say he is our anointed King, and that prevails much with us.

Conv. And so it ought, but mistake not: wee know that the former anointing was an immediate and peculiar institution for the Jewish Commonwealth, there is no more unction now to be poured upon the supremacy of a Monarch, more than upon the supremacy of any other State, as Venice, onely our custome or superstition; and Bishops have brought in those legall ceremonies of inauguration and unction; yet we doe all with godly reverence acknowledge our King the supreme governour, and his government the ordinance of God too, and Monarchies the best of governments.

Caval. But well, what doe you finde in the Kings Army that you should leave your opinions? I am sure there are many good Protestants in it, and many that love their Country too, and that sweare to fight for the priviledge of Parliament.

Conv. For those good Protestants though they may have some light, yet beleeeve it, in those particulars they are given up to a delusion for a time, to beleeeve a lye; and it is not the saying they fight for the Protestant Religion, and priviledge of Parliament that is enough; have not all the priviledges of Parliament beene broken by them? nay is not their very withdrawing their persons an eminent breach of the Act of Continuation? They ought to sit out all hazards as the rest have done, and doe still: if they excuse themselves for their feare of tumults, I am sure then the other have had as great occasions to withdraw as they, witnesse the tumult of Cavaliers which came with the King to their house, and threatned the slaughter of many, and other later dangers and practices, yet these desert not the publike af-

saies, as the other have done : and for the Protestant Religion, I have little hope to see it long amongst them, when I see Popery and Papists so much countenanced, protected, and preferred.

Caval. What, doe you thinke Popery will come in?

Conv. Who thinks not? I speake not from what I have read in the late discoveries in *Romes master-piece*, and in the printed papers, but I have seene a private packet which was intercepted from *Holland*, wherein the Queens Agents had opened to their friends at *Yorke* so much of their designe for bringing in Popery, that I am confident they onely forbore yet, because their interetts and advantages are not strengthened enough. But what meanes all this favour to Papists? this freedom to Priests and Jesuites? this generall arming them throughout all the Kingdome? this connivency at the *Irish* Rebels about the Court?

Caval. That is because they are good subjects, and helpe the King against the Puritans and Parliament.

Conv. Good subjects! never yet did Protestant Prince account them so before, nor I hope will ours, nor the Lawes of this Kingdome: mistake not, whatsoever they pretend, we know they have another interest and another supremacy which drawes all their allegiance after it, and what allegiance will be left for the King of *England*, when the Pope and the King of *Spain* challenges all? and while this King is a Protestant, he is but still an heretick in their reputation, and then (I pray) what faith and allegiance doth their Religion tye them to? And though they may helpe the King now against the Puritans and Parliament, this is their greatest policy, for they know the Puritan and Parliament are the Protestants of the strictest profession, which most opposes them and their designe: and for the other Protestants, they know, they are such who are easily mattered, when they have cut this sinew; and they are such as will keepe them company almost in any ceremony or Church superstition, and in many of their positions, and make use of many of their principles to hold up their Prelacy, and so they make as good use of such Protestants to propagate their ends by, as any of their owne.

Caval. You have told me so much that for my part I am resolved to leave this course, I will never fight for Popery, nor to bring in all our Religion and Lawes and estates into the hands and power of a few Counsellors about the King.

Conv. Nay perhaps all will be then in a lesse roome in the Queenes power, for I am sure she hath disposed of places in Court and Commonwealth, as appears by his Majesties owne Letters; and I am sure too she sent those answers from *Yorke* which came from the King to the Parliament the last treay, I know it, I tell you we are meerly fooled and deluded, and the Queene is the very president of the Councell Table.

Caval. But I pray you, why doth the King protest and promise so never to bring in Popery?

Conv. First, how are you sure such protestations are the Kings? there are many State tricks, subjects may protest and vow in the Kings name; there are such delusions: but well, say they were the Kings, wee know all his promises have not bene

kept, his Counsellors will acknowledge themselves, that necessity have forced him to breake some, as his suffering Papists to beare armes, so that if necessity can so prevaile with him, may not a new and another necessity force him to breake again, and then where is your Religion? And beleeye it, such is the Queenes power with him, and the Jesuits power with her, and such are the engagements which the Papists boast they have laid upon him, that a Toleration will not bee recompence enough; and they that know their merit so much, and value the propagation of their Religion so highly, and see such a concurrency of power, and time for it, will scarce leave it in the halfe way.

Caval. I must tell you truly, Popery is too much favoured, but they say, they may as well favour Popery, as the Parliament favours Brownisme and Anabaptisme.

Conv. That is a trick of the Jesuites to disguise honest zeale, and purity of profession with the name of Brownists and Anabaptists; and so to make true godlines put on a name of faction and heresie, that you may take scar at it; and these whom they commonly and now call such, are onely such professors whose light is more to see the corruptions in the discipline and practice of our Church, and so to withdraw from it, and to communicate in their owne particular Congregations; yet they hold the Church of England a true Church, and will communicate with them in prayer and preaching of the Word too, and other godly intercourses.

Caval. I am now of your opinion, for I see how Popery flourishes in the Court, and in their Armies.

Conv. I will tell you one thing among the rest wrought much with me too, when the King went first from his Parliament to Yorke, there met him at Doncaster some Gentlemen, one of them being called neerer to the Counsels than the rest, gave his advice concerning the businesse of the Papists, and it was accordingly pursued, and it was this, That his Majesty would set out a Proclamation, to forbid all Papists access to his Court, and this he alledged would bring good reputation to the King, and then the Papists might have private intimations to what and that was made, and not to forbear however: this he told a Gentleman his friend, who told mee; and I my selfe saw then, when the Proclamation was upon the Court gates, divers Papists in the presence and privy-Chamber, and they had often private discourse with his Majesty; I was sad now to thinke of it, and to see such delusions put upon the people, and so patronized. Among whom was Colonell Taff, the great Irish Papist, now employed to the Rebels in Ireland.

Caval. But now no more of these, for I am clearly satisfied: but your Parliament forces are much broken of late, and the Kings partie glories in their successe.

Conv. I grant you we are very low and broken, and I am afraid some secret sins are the cause.

Caval. What sinnes thinke you?

Conv. First, I am afraid our preserving the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was so great an offender against the Church, and the first introducer of superstition and idolatry, provokes God much; for ought not God to have his sacrifice, as well as the State? the Deputy of Ireland had justice done for offending against the temporall

Lawes, but he is spared yet who offended against the Lawes of God, and drew your Nation to sitt: beleeve it there may be reason of State against this Divinity, but I know none.

Caval. What more sinnes thinke ye, for this is very cleare, and I pray God the time come not when God may take him out of your hands, and set him up for a worse scourge to you and your Kingdome againe, because he gave him to you once, and you made no use of him.

Conv. There is another sitt very likely and eminent, our carnall confidence we had in that grand Act of the continuation of this present Parliament, for when wee had obtained that, we grew secure in our owne designs, and thought this Parliament could not be dissolved, and God to Thew that there is no strength nor trust in our owne policies, hath thus melted our Parliament, and brought it low, though God (I am certain) will make this a great advantage for us, he will strengthen these few, and put a double spirit upon them, that he may appeare more, and his power and glory more, which before was shadowed and circumstanced with too thicke a cloud of second causes. But I leave these, and I could wish the Parliament would aske counsell in this at their Assembly, it is a faithfull Oracle.

Caval. But you are very low in forces, how shall ye rise againe?

Conv. You are mistaken, we have a faire game yet, wee have the shipping, the strongest Port townes, we have many fresh Countries to recrewt our forces in, we have the reserve of a fresh Nation Scotland, and wee are able to supply ourselves from the trade of Ammunition, when the other party onely obtains a supply as you see by single and accidentall arrivals of small Barkes, which will soone be exhausted in the continuance of a war.

Caval. The King hath great Armies.

Conv. That is no such certaine argument of successe and prevailing, for there are certaine infelicities and fatall periods in battailes, we have experienced this, and it is no lesse impossible for us to rise againe into glorious proceedings, as it was for our enemy to get up from his low beginnings into his present power and prosperity; and we are very glad, and rejoyce in these afflictions, now there is more worke for our graces and Gods Attributes: we looke not upon our wars now as in former times, when they fought in this Kingdome for titular and civill occasions, Religion and Reformation is in our shar, and we have made it Gods quarrell, and have engaged him.

Caval. You were speaking of Scotland comming in to helpe you, are you sure of that? will there be no differences to employ them at home?

Conv. No, I can assure you, they are in preparation for comming, and they are too wise a Nation, and are too firme to their publike interelts to be divided now; and though they have some Lords who have beene warmed at Court, ye: they will soone coole againe in their owne ayre, and their Northerne shade.

Caval. But there is a Popish Army in Yorkshire which is very great.

Conv. You mistake it, though it be numerous, it is not potent, it is made and pieced up of so many violenced men, that upon the first appearing of any considerable

able power, they will melt off, especially when such an Army comes as the Scots will appeare with, whose former successe and reputation is so terrible in those northerne Counties, and their faire former carriage and peaceable departure, will easily make room for them in those oppressed Counties, and the Lord Fairfax is now I can assure you growing into a considerable condition too, and this will helpe to divert and dissolve them.

Caval. *But had we not better hearken to some propositions of peace?*

Conv. This is not a season for that, you are now low, and your enemy will look upon you rather as petitioners for peace than treaters: stay till you grow more powerfull, and then propound what you please; for when such propositions come from those that stand high in power, it is an act of favour, but if from those that are below, it is an act of feare, and State-fears and Parliamentary-discouragements will too much disadvantage a Treaty, and your business now.

Caval. *But many people thinke that the Parliament and the City will have no peace.*

Conv. That is a policy of the enemy to worke and cast in those scandalls, for can any reasonable man thinke, that the Parliament and City doe not esteeme their happinesse, and wealth, and lives, at as high a rate as others, or any of the Kings party? surely yes, but they are wise, and would not treat of a peace till a fit and advantageous season; for to talke of a peace till they were in a better condition, were to purchase through all their blood and expence a base Reformation, and a lesse secure, and a more uncertaine peace than they had before.

Caval. *But were there not propositions of peace made by some?*

Conv. Yes, I thinke they were made at Oxford; such propositions, for such a peace, and at such a time, would have gained for you these disadvantages: First, a diversion from your present preparations, which to much concerned you. And then an incongruity with your late Covenants and Protestations, which is, to have no peace but in order to the security of Religion and Liberties. And thirdly, a retardation or stop to the Treaty with Scotland, and so have flattered you into a necessity of betraying your selves. And fourthly, a division and parrying into factions, as you saw an experiment of late.

Caval. *But in a word, what thinke you of the successe of the Kings party?*

Conv. I thinke it serves but to heighten their ruine, and to lay us low, that wee may be capable of an higher mercy; prosperity in a wicked design, hath ever been a glorious preface of a sad event.

Caval. *Well, for my part I am resolved never to joine with the Papists againe, never to believe Protestation nor Declaration from Oxford; never to bea dejected for any loss; never to fight to make my selfe a slave: and my posterity; never to be an accessory in the betraying my Country; never to defend a few Malignants and wicked Counsellors; never to be foaledous of my Religion with the name of Brownisme; never to believe an Accommodation that comes from Oxford; never to thinke any cause the better for the many Lords and Gentry that sue to it; never to be afraid of the Popish Army.*

Conv. Farewell, and be converted.

Caval. *I am so, and am going to convert others, as I hope in God I shall: Only one word*

word more, They say many Lords are gone to the King.

Conv. They are gone no further than they were before, I suppose they were always the Kings stake (as some other's are) and left in the Parliament to cooperate and worke for his advantage: you may know such by these marks, those that occasion disputes in times of businesse, and cast in unseasonable Queres and Propositions, and would stay one businesse by propounding another, and thus put you behinde, are of their constitution.

Caval. But there are many afraid of this Synod, and could wish to see what Reformation is aimed at.

Conv. In all buildings there must be a time for preparing stones and timber, for workes of adaptation and fitting, the more slow such expeditions are, the more perfect, and the constitution of this Synod is for the most part very moderate, and of a temper to agree with the Reformed Churches of buriy States; and the Parliament are so wise as to know their strength is in compliencie with those Churches and States; and so let us not fancy such prodigies of Reformation as the enemy would make us beleieve, which is neither agreeable to rules of piety nor policy.

Caval. But you imprison those that take your part, with what assurance or confidence can any serve you? beleieve it, some late imprisonments, that of a Colonell and Minister, will have an influence into your owne partie,

Conv. For the Colonell, his words were very insolent, and such languages as he used before, did cast a shadow upon the house where he sat: his submission and humiliation now may perhaps doe much with so gracious a Senate, who know as well to be mercifull as just, and have given large experiments to their very enemies and worst Malignants. And for the Minister, he gave a free and cleare account, and upon oath; for the Paper which was found and given to the House, he acknowledged to bee such as he had heard was both their jealousies at Oxford, as was before their engines of aspersions which they commonly used, and had intended an answer to it as he hath done other things. There is no Scholler who sits close to the times in observation, but they will have papers of all sorts; it is the priviledge and liberty we must allow the Cowne: and I assure you, the Minister hath beene always knowne from the first to the last to have done great and publick services. I watnant you, doe not feare, the Parliament will encourage such. Nay I can tell you more, I saw in a little discourse that Minister writ and gave abroad, a passage which I liked extreamly, and it gave me satisfaction.

Caval. What was that?

Conv. It was to satisfie that objection concerning the King, and he proved in that discourse, how inconsistent it was with reason, and their principles, and all their Protestations, that the Parliament should be disloyall; and that that loyalty was the most glorious and Christian, which aimed to establish a King in the lustre and majesty of the Lawes, Courts, Priviledges, and true Reformed Religion. Farewell. Feare nor, the Parliament is gracious and firme, and will encourage their party.